

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2007

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 207**

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**Introduced by Senator Padilla** *Senators Padilla and Simitian*  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Torlakson)**  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Ma)  
**(Coauthor: Senator Ducheny)**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bass)

February 8, 2007

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An act to add Part 5 (commencing with Section 71400) to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, relating to parks and recreation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 207, as amended, Padilla. Parks and recreation: Outdoor *Environmental* Education and Recreation Program.

Existing law establishes the Office of Education and Environment in the Integrated Waste Management Board for the purpose of implementing a statewide environmental education program.

This bill would establish the Outdoor *Environmental* Education and Recreation Program, to be administered by the Director of Parks and Recreation (director), for the purpose of increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor ~~activities~~ *recreation* and educational experiences by awarding grants to ~~formal school programs and informal public education programs~~ *education programs that are available to the public and are operated by public entities or nonprofit organizations*. The bill would create the Outdoor *Environmental* Education and Recreation Fund in the State Treasury that, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would be used for awarding grants pursuant to the program. The bill would authorize the director to accept for, and require the director to deposit in, the fund voluntary

private donations made for support of the program. The bill would express the Legislature's intent that the fund be capitalized with moneys from the General Fund and donations.

The bill would require the director to develop program components, including, but not limited to, criteria for awarding grants, and staffing and budget needs. The bill would require the California Environmental Education Interagency Network to serve as an advisor to the director in developing the program components. The bill would require the director to give priority for funding, where feasible, to outdoor environmental education programs with specified attributes. The bill would require the director, *by January 1, 2009*, to submit, ~~by January 1, 2009, to the Governor and to the Legislature~~ a report ~~and recommendation for the implementation of the program on the criteria for the awarding of grants and the availability of grant funding.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The California Environmental Education Interagency
- 4 Network (CEEIN) was established in 1993 as a consortium of
- 5 environmental educators representing departments, boards, and
- 6 commissions of the State Department of Education, the California
- 7 Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources Agency, and the
- 8 Department of Food and Agriculture. The primary goals of CEEIN
- 9 are to develop a unified response to the environmental education
- 10 needs of California's educators and local governments, and to
- 11 assist with the statewide educational reform movements.
- 12 (b) The Legislature enacted Chapter 663 of the Statutes of 2003,
- 13 which established the Outdoor Environmental Education Program
- 14 and required a study on the benefits of outdoor environmental
- 15 education for at-risk youth and underserved demographic groups.
- 16 The study found that the science test scores of children who
- 17 participated in these programs were raised by 27 percent, and these
- 18 children also had improved conflict resolution and problem solving
- 19 skills, self-esteem, and motivation to learn. This program ended
- 20 on January 1, 2006.

(c) The Legislature enacted Resolution Chapter 101 of the Statutes of 2006, which recognized the importance of local recreation and park agencies in the effort to reverse negative trends in inactivity, obesity, diabetes, and other health problems among Californians and encouraged the state to utilize and partner with local recreation and park providers to create a healthier state.

SEC. 2. Part 5 (commencing with Section 71400) is added to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

PART 5. OUTDOOR *ENVIRONMENTAL* EDUCATION AND RECREATION

71400. As used in this part, the following terms ~~mean the following~~ *have the following meanings*:

(a) “Director” means the Director of Parks and Recreation.

(b) “Fund” means the Outdoor *Environmental* Education and Recreation Fund established pursuant to Section 71402.

(c) “*Nonprofit organization*” means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

~~(e)~~

(d) “Program” means the Outdoor *Environmental* Education and Recreation Program established pursuant to Section 71401.

71401. There is hereby established the Outdoor *Environmental* Education and Recreation Program in the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purpose of increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor ~~activities~~ *recreation* and educational experiences by awarding grants to ~~formal school programs and informal public education programs~~ *education programs that are available to the public and are operated by public entities or nonprofit organizations*.

71402. (a) There is hereby established the Outdoor *Environmental* Education and Recreation Fund in the State Treasury that, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be used for awarding grants to qualified outdoor environmental education programs pursuant to this part.

(b) It is intended that the fund be capitalized with moneys from the General Fund and from donations accepted by the director pursuant to Section 71404.

(c) The Controller shall transfer from the General Fund to the fund the amount appropriated from the General Fund by the Legislature for each fiscal year for the implementation of the program.

71403. The director shall do all of the following:

(a) Administer the program to ensure that priority is given to underserved populations, including both urban and rural areas and low-income communities where participation in an outdoor environmental education program has been limited.

(b) (1) Develop the components of the program and fund, including, but not limited to, criteria for awarding grants, and staffing and budget needs.

(2) The California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN) shall serve as advisor to the director in developing the program components.

(3) *In developing eligibility criteria for awarding grants, the director shall consider the long-term financial sustainability of the program.*

~~(3)~~

(4) In developing the criteria for awarding grant moneys, the director shall give priority for funding, where feasible, to outdoor environmental education programs that have the following attributes:

(A) Serves primarily at-risk youth and underserved demographic groups.

(B) Is a partnership between public and private entities.

(C) Contributes to healthy lifestyles, including sound nutrition and outdoor exercise *and recreation* .

(D) Maximizes the number of participants that can be served.

(E) Commits in-kind resources to the outdoor environmental education program.

(F) Has a curriculum that is aligned to the science content standards for California public schools adopted by the State Board of Education, fosters stewardship of the environment, and includes, when available, curriculum established pursuant to ~~Chapter 663 of the Statutes of 2003 Part 4 (commencing with Section 71300) of Division 34.~~

(G) Includes service learning and community outreach components for the purpose of building partnerships between participants and local communities.

1 (c) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code,  
2 ~~submit, on or before January 1, 2009, a report and recommendation~~  
3 ~~to the Governor and the Legislature on the implementation of the~~  
4 ~~program.~~ *submit a report to the Legislature on the criteria*  
5 *developed for the awarding of grants pursuant to this part and the*  
6 *availability of grant funding. The director may also suggest in the*  
7 *report further legislative action to improve the implementation of*  
8 *this program. The report shall be submitted to the Legislature on*  
9 *or before January 1, 2009.*

10 71404. The director may accept and shall deposit into the fund  
11 voluntary private donations made for the support of the program.